

MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 259
September 21, 2022

Board Members Present:

Larry Brown, Co-Chair
Gary Chandler, Co-Chair
Wade Larson, Representing Business
Todd Mitchell, Representing Labor
Caitlyn Jekel for Cami Feek, Employment Security Department (ESD)
Rebecca Wallace for Chris Reykdal, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
Paul Francis, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC)
Jilma Meneses, Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)
June Altaras, Representing Business
Chris Alejano, Representing Underserved Populations
Kairie Pierce, Representing Labor
Marie Davis for Lisa Brown, Department of Commerce
Jane Hopkins, Representing Labor
Amy Martinez for Mark Mattke, Representing Local Government

Call to Order

Co-Chair Mr. Gary Chandler called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. on a virtual meeting using Zoom and welcomed the Board and audience members.

Consent Agenda

MOTION-2022-259-01: Ms. Jilma Meneses moved to approve the Consent Agenda that included approval of the Minutes from August 3 and September 8 Board Meeting. Ms. Marie Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Workforce Board Executive Director, Ms. Eleni Papadakis, submitted her executive director's report in written form to the Board and opened the floor for questions. There were no questions or comments from the Board.

Good Jobs Challenge Grant & Regional Challenge Grants

Ms. Heather Hudson, WA Student Achievement Council (WSAC), gave a presentation to the Board about two new projects aimed at improving postsecondary and career outcomes.

The \$23.5 million, three-year Good Jobs Challenge Grant awarded to WSAC is intended to strengthen Career Connect Washington and enable 5,000 Washington residents to access demand-driven education and training, with more than 3,000 of those anticipated to secure a job during the grant period.

Regional Challenge Grants, administered by WSAC with initial funding of \$6 million for 2022-23, is aimed at encouraging more Washington residents to enroll in postsecondary education through a two-tiered, grant-funded process that brings stakeholders together to brainstorm solutions, strengthen student outreach, and test new strategies to combat falling enrollment, over multiple years.

Ms. Amy Martinez expressed interest in being involved and asked how they'll engage Workforce Development Councils. Ms. Hudson will connect with further details.

Beginning TAP Planning for Spring 2024 Federal Submission

Presentations were given by Workforce Board Executive Director Ms. Eleni Papadakis and Workforce Board Staff Ms. Elizabeth Court on the planning process for Talent and Prosperity for All (TAP), the state's strategic workforce plan, that is due to be submitted to the U.S. Departments of Labor and Education in the Spring 2024. The Board discussed how they would like to undertake creating a new state strategic plan during the coming year and a half. To get the ball rolling, board members did a quick brainstorming and prioritization process to identify a short list of topics to explore during the planning process. Meeting participants-- board members and audience, were divided into breakout rooms where they chose 1 to 3 topics to discuss with regard to the planning process. The topic list for this exercise included:

- Childcare shortage – especially for alternative hours.
- New competency/skills-based credentialing method.
- Talent pipeline partnerships with industry.
- Wraparound services.
- Ease of navigation for employers and job seekers.

During the subsequent discussion about the planning process, Board members expressed interest in an analysis of whether and how goals of the current TAP plan have been achieved, and where service gaps remain. Ms. Papadakis described how the pandemic shifted the focus of the workforce system away from the goals of the TAP plan to address the situation caused by COVID-19, such as a sudden shift to all online or remote service delivery.

The board also discussed getting out to marginalized communities to hear directly from their people and businesses. Yakima was suggested as a location for a future in-person meeting. Mr. Chandler requested a panel of Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs.

2023 Partner Legislative Requests

Nova Gattman, Workforce Board staff, led the discussion on the 2023 Partner Legislative Requests. Ms. Marie Bruin from SBCTC, Ms. Caitlyn Jekel from ESD, Ms. Becky Wallace from OSPI, and Ms. Laura Hopkins from SEIU 1199NW Training Fund, all presented information on their respective organizations' legislative requests.

After hearing the presentations, the Board agreed to convene a group to prioritize recommendations. Ms. Gattman will convene an Endorsement Committee, made up of one member per caucus, to prioritize the top items to bring forward in November for endorsement by the full Board. Members will include Ms. Kairie Pierce (Labor), Ms. June Altaras (Business), Ms. Amy Martinez (Government). Co-Chairs Brown and Chandler also requested additional information about the SEIU 1199NW Training Fund request.

WIOA System Policy 5612: One-Stop Evaluation and Certification (Potential Action)

Workforce Board Staff, Ms. Elizabeth Court, and Employment Security Department Staff, Elizabeth Casey, presented the purpose of this policy - to communicate Washington's process and procedures for evaluating and certifying one-stop sites under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity

Act (WIOA). In consideration of the planning process, staff recommended the Board move to approve the existing policy and take up review of it during this planning period. An alternate approach would be approval of the current policy to remain in effect until after the planning process is completed in March 2024, then begin policy review. Ms. Casey recommended that it is timely and necessary to implement this policy. Staff were directed to update the policy and then keep working on continuous improvement.

MOTION-2022-259-02: Ms. Amy Martinez moved to update the current 2015 policy for center certification to meet the requirements needed after the pandemic as well as continuous improvement of that policy as we go through the planning process through the state plan. Ms. Pierce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Workforce Innovation Network (WIN) Pilot Project

The Board has facilitated a state team as part of the National Governors Association Workforce Innovation Network (NGA WIN) initiative, and in support of the Board's collective impact initiative on helping more jobseekers achieve economic self-sufficiency. Workforce Board Staff, Mr. Joe Wilcox, gave a presentation about the progress of this project, details on the component parts, and plans for rolling out to pilot sites. Mr. Jacob Orrin, COO, Merit, our technology thought partner on the project, presented a brief overview of the components of a digital data wallet infrastructure, and how it would facilitate data-sharing across partner agencies while motivating participants to achieve their goals. The pilot sites will be in Walla Walla, Snohomish, and Thurston County.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.